Inspection Report

Site: Joseph Stafslien
CIWQS Place ID: 842383 and 842382
Inspection Date: May 23, 2019

Property Information

County: Humboldt
Physical Address: 140 EUBANKS RD GARBERVILLE, CA 95542; 585 EUBANKS RD GARBERVILLE, CA 95542; 575 EUBANKS RD GARBERVILLE, CA 95542
Assessor's Parcel Number: 220-171-002-000; 220-072-008-000; 220-081-012-000
Owner: Joseph Stafslien and Julian Stafslien; Rainbow Sunshine LLC and Joseph Stafslien; John Stafslien
Size (acres): 41; 41; 41

Inspection Information

Inspection Type: Compliance
Attendance: Kate Hawken, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
Greg O'Connell, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Joseph Stafslien, landowner
Robert Jensen, consultant

Inspection Report Information

Prepared by/Date: Kate Hawken August 1, 2019
Reviewed by/Date: Mona Dougherty August 7, 2019
Photograph Source(s): Photos taken by Kate Hawken unless otherwise noted
CIWQS Report ID: 37188770 and 37188772

Property Background

Watershed: Mattole River Hydrologic Area; Cal Water 1112.300102; Headwaters Mattole River HUC-12 180101070202
Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Listings: Sedimentation/Siltation and Temperature
TMDLs: Mattole River TMDL for Sediment and Temperature 2002
Development (imagery source Google Earth Pro):
-002 Trees cleared and hoop houses constructed between 5/8/2014 and 4/21/2019

-008 and -012 roads constructed prior to 6/11/1993
-008 trees removed between 5/24/2009 and 7/5/2010
-012 trees removed between 4/24/2010 and 8/23/2012
Regulatory/Enforcement (general): This site was enrolled in the Regional Cannabis Order effective 12/6/2017 and applications were submitted for the State Cannabis Order

Site Map

Figure 1 – Disturbed Area Map from *Eubanks Farm #1 SMP, NMP & Maps*

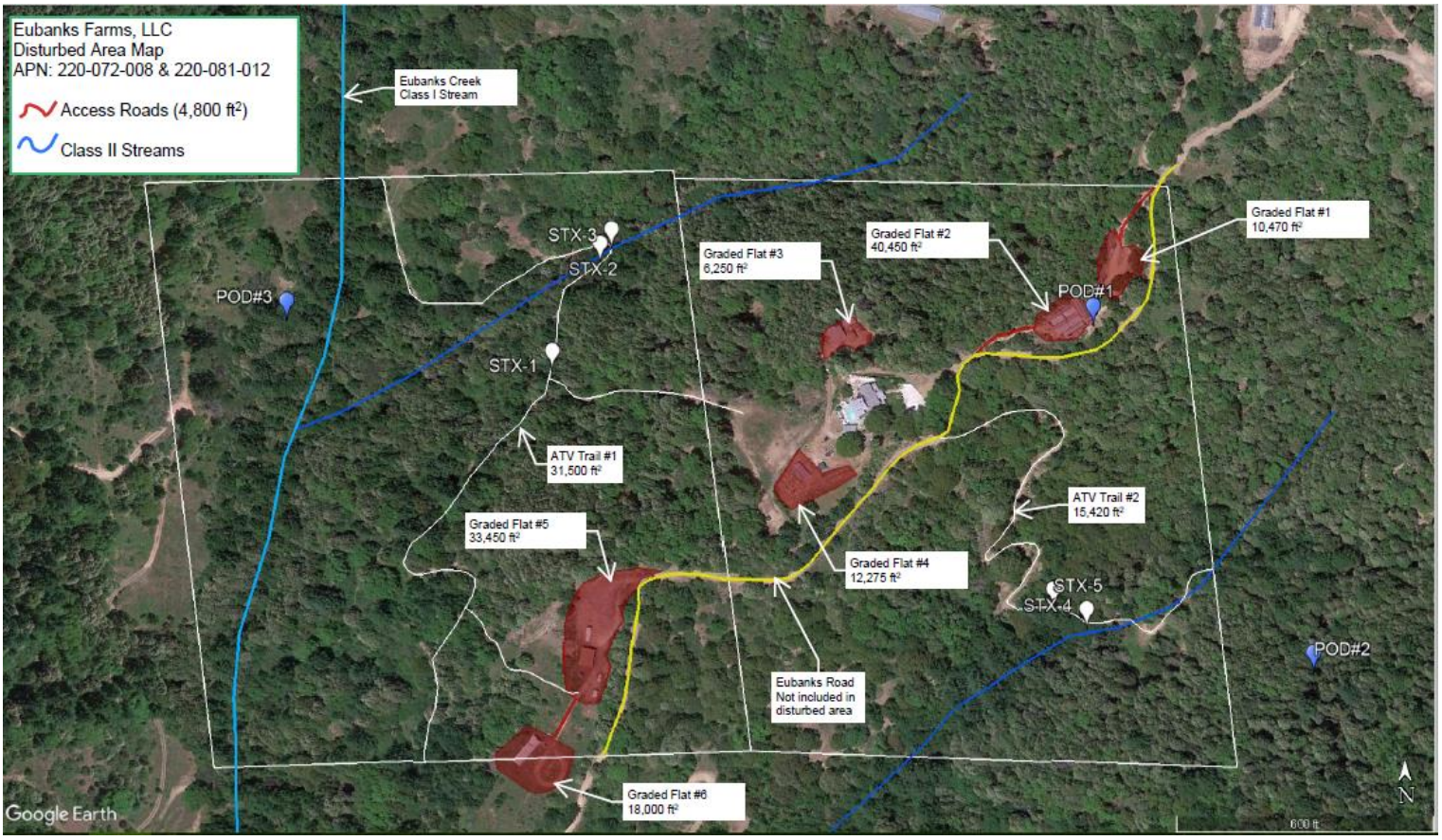

Figure 2 – Disturbed Area Map from *Eubanks Farm #2 SMP, NMP & Maps*

Inspection Observations

Graded Flat #1, Graded Flat #2, POD #1 in Figure 2 – I observed a well, dozens of water storage tanks, and multiple hoop houses with active cannabis cultivation on graded flats (photo 1). I did not observe erosion or irrigation runoff issues on the flats.

STX 1 in Figure 2 – I observed a culvert stream crossing occluded with sediment and with an outlet perched above the watercourse (photo 2). Replacement to an 18-inch diameter culvert or rocked ford is prescribed in the Site Management Plan (SMP).

STX 2 in Figure 2 – I observed a dirt ford stream crossing (photo 3). The watercourse was eroding the trail material and conveying it downstream to STX 3. Replacement to an 18-inch diameter culvert or rocked ford is prescribed in the SMP.

STX 3 in Figure 2 – I observed a 36-inch diameter culvert stream crossing with an outlet perched above the watercourse (photo 4). Replacement to a 42-inch diameter culvert or rocked ford is prescribed in the SMP. I measured an active channel width of 48 inches. I observed road runoff and stream water diverted from the failed STX 2 had channelized down the road and was actively eroding the fill around culvert STX 3, contributing sediment to the watercourse (photo 5).

POD #3 in Figure 2 – I observed an intake line with a screen in the pool of a watercourse (photo 6). Directly downstream I observed a settling barrel (photo 7). We discussed in the field moving water diversion infrastructure out of the watercourse to the extent possible.

Rut (-123.97307, 40.09232) - I observed a large rut in a road approximately 400 feet south of POD #3 (photo 8).

ATV Trail #2 in Figure 2 – I observed the end of ATV Trail #2 that is being decommissioned. The trail was covered in straw and vegetation was reemerging (photo 9). Outsloping and adding drainage relief are prescribed in the SMP.

STX 5 in Figure 2 – I observed a culvert stream crossing with a buried outlet (photo 10). Culvert removal and excavation to natural channel gradient is prescribed in the SMP.

STX 4 in Figure 2 – I observed a 36-inch diameter culvert with an outlet perched above the watercourse (photo 11). Because the culvert was not aligned with the watercourse, the channel bed at the base of the outlet is eroding and transporting sediment downstream. Culvert removal and excavation to natural channel gradient is prescribed in the SMP.

POD #2 in Figure 2 – I observed an intake line with a screen in the pool of a watercourse (photo 12). Directly downstream I observed a settling barrel (photo 13). We discussed in the field moving water diversion infrastructure out of the watercourse to the extent possible. I recorded this point on the eastern parcel boundary, which differs from its location in Figure 2.

Tank (-123.97034, 40.08340) - I observed a water storage tank on a steep, eroding flat directly above a Class III watercourse (photo 14, 15).

Photos

Photo 1 – Graded flat with water storage tanks and hoop houses

Photo 2 – STX 1 – culvert stream crossing

Photo 3 – STX 2 – dirt ford stream crossing

Photo 4 – STX 3 – culvert stream crossing

	
Photo 5 – STX 3 – road runoff and diverted flow from STX 2 eroding culvert fill	Photo 6 – POD #3 – screened intake in stream
	
Photo 7 – POD #3 – settling barrel downstream of screened intake	Photo 8 – Rut – large rut in road

	
Photo 9 – ATV Trail #2 – portion of ATV trail being decommissioned and revegetated	Photo 10 – STX 5 – culvert stream crossing
	
Photo 11 – STX 4 – culvert stream crossing	Photo 12 – POD #2 – screened intake in stream

Photo 13 – POD #2 - settling barrel downstream of screened intake

Photo 14 – Tank – looking uphill at water storage tank on steep, eroding slope

Photo 15 – Tank – looking downhill at water storage tank proximity to watercourse

Summary

A comparison of conditions observed on the site with categories of activities typically associated with water quality concerns at cannabis cultivation sites:

a. Site Maintenance, Erosion Control and Drainage Features: I observed roads hydrologically connected to watercourses and discharging sediment. I also observed road surface erosion due to inadequate surfacing and lack of drainage features.
b. Stream Crossing Maintenance: I observed undersized, perched, and occluded culvert stream crossings.

c. Riparian and Wetland Protection and Management: I observed a water storage tank in the riparian setback of a Class III watercourse.
d. Spoils Management: I observed no water quality issues associated with spoils management.
e. Water Storage and Use: I observed an adequate supply of water storage tanks.
f. Irrigation Runoff: I observed no water quality issues associated with irrigation runoff.
g. Fertilizers and Soil Amendments: I observed no water quality issues associated with fertilizers and soil amendments.
h. Pesticides/Herbicides: I observed no water quality issues associated with storage/use of pesticides.
i. Petroleum Products and Other Chemicals: I observed no water quality issues associated with petroleum products and other chemicals.
j. Cultivation-related Wastes: I observed no water quality issues associated with cultivation-related wastes.
k. Refuse and Human Waste: I did not observe or review human waste collection/disposal systems or facilities on the property.

Recommendations

1. Retain a licensed professional to develop a workplan and **schedule** to:
    a. Decommission or replace failing stream crossings
        i. Update STX 3 recommendation to at least a 48-inch diameter culvert
    b. Improve road alignment, surfacing, and drainage to minimize erosion and sediment transport. Hydrologically disconnect roads and road ditches from watercourses.
2. Submit design plans, construction schedule, and other relevant information to the Regional Water Board through the 401 Water Quality Certification process prior to start of work in surface waters. Work may not start until authorization is received from the Regional Water Board. See application for the 401 Water Quality Certification here: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/cannabis/pdf/190403/180731_031616_401_WQ2017-0023-Application.pdf
3. Relocate water diversion infrastructure outside of the active riparian zone to the extent possible
4. Relocate water storage tank to a stable area outside of the required 50-foot riparian setback from the Class III watercourse
5. Add Rut to SMP and prescribe treatment such as the addition of water bars uphill